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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Shia Rights Watch Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Genocide of the Hazara: Human Rights Situation that Requires the Council's Attention

Shia Rights Watch expresses concern for the genocide of the transnational population of Hazara. Anti-Shiism, or discrimination againsregmt Shia Muslims based on their faith identity, continues to prosper in nations where Hazara Shia reside- including nations of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Hazara people can be classified as one of the middle eastern regions most targeted Shia populations. Since the 1800's, researchers estimate a 58% reduction in the community of Hazara's in Afghanistan alone.

Hazara people have moved as diaspora fleeing from violence to various cities of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. Like the rest of the Shia international community, Hazara Shia are no stranger to targeted violence. As far as the 16th century, the Hazara population has been targeted by extremism, both systematic and social. In the 19th century, political leaders rounded up and killed all Shia Muslims located in central Afghanistan. Those not killed were sold as slaves.

In addition to lacking political support, anti-Shia sentiment in terror organizations such as the Taliban, continually instill anti-Hazara sentiment in society by stating, "Hazaras are not Muslim, you can kill them." Religious educators express that "killing Hazara's [is] the key to heaven."

Despite enduring thousands of years of violence, Hazara's continue to face the dangers of everyday life. Existing terror organization continue to target this group. In the past decade, over 1,000 Hazara have been killed by bombs and targeted shootings.

Targeting of the Hazara take many forms. Notable members of the community are assassinated by armed assailants. Hazara involvement in national processes are suppressed by bombings in areas densely populated by this population.

When they are not being killed by extremism, Hazara Shia faces discrimination in their broader communities. Shadowed by perceptions of being "others" within their own homes, Hazara Shia is faced with a glass ceiling. Their opportunities in employment and education are limited, solely by their distinguishable by their facial features and dialect.

Hazara Shia face both direct and cultural violence. This population is killed by targeted attacks, and existing discrimination in society keeps this population from obtaining justice. Despite the vast number of Shia deaths, a limited number of investigations have to lead to arrests and arraignment. Anti-Shia education continues to prosper in schools and educational centers.

The lack of political and international response to the ongoing killing of the Hazara population reinforces violence against religious minorities in the South Asian region of the world.

Shia Rights Watch calls on the Human Right Council and the international community to bring justice to the Hazara people by carrying out necessary prosecutions to ensure that perpetrators of violence are imprisoned.

This population must be highlighted as an endangered population that needs protection. Shia Rights Watch urges the international community to take steps in reducing violence against this ethnic group.